

California Bureau of Land Management

Report to the California State OHV Commission

October 25-26, 2023

No presentations will be given by the BLM.

BLM PERSONNEL NEWS

Jamie Fields' temporary assignment as the OHV and Travel Management Program Lead for the BLM California State Office has ended. Another temporary staff person is expected to start in the role in early November. The BLM is in the process of hiring for this position and anticipates having the role permanently filled by early 2024.

NEWS AND EVENTS

BLM's El Centro Field Office staff are busy preparing for the upcoming visitation season for the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area (ISDRA). El Centro Field Office will re-open the Cahuilla and Buttercup Ranger Stations in the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area on October 14, after a hiatus for the hot summer months. The public will be able to obtain a variety of visitor services at the ranger stations, including maps and other information, first aid, and permits for the fee area, which are available for purchase. Overall visitation for the ISDRA from October through April is expected to be above average for the season with Halloween, Thanksgiving, New Years, and Presidents' Day, spiking up to 100,000 visitors in a week. Permits are required for most days between early-October and mid-April each year.

For more information, visit: <https://www.blm.gov/visit/imperial-sand-dunes>

The Ukiah Field Office will be participating in the CA State Parks Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation OHV Safety Week November 11 to 19 by setting up outreach tables at OHV staging areas and an overnight volunteer route assessment at the Knoxville OHV Area.

For more information, visit: <https://www.parks.ca.gov/NewsRelease/1161>

The Bakersfield Field Office will be hosting the Southern Sierra Moto Trials 2023 Kern River Classic from Saturday to Sunday, December 2 to 3. The race will use the trail system within the Keysville Special Recreation Management Area. The BLM is expecting 50-plus participants.

For more information, visit: <https://www.southern-sierra-mototrials.org/>

The Ukiah Field Office hosted a National Public Lands Day event on Saturday, September 23 at the Westside Staging Area of the South Cow Mountain OHV Management Area. Volunteers helped to repair the loading ramp, clean the parking area of sediment runoff, remove damaged signs, and paint bathrooms.

For more information about the event, visit: <https://www.blm.gov/press-release/join-blm-ukiah-national-public-lands-day>

For more information about the South Cow Mountain OHV Management Area, visit: <https://www.blm.gov/visit/south-cow-mountain-ohv-management-area>

The Redding and Arcata field offices are accepting public comments through December 28 on the draft Northwest California Integrated Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. The Plan will guide management of approximately 382,200 acres of public land and approximately 295,100 acres of subsurface minerals in Del Norte, Siskiyou, Shasta, Humboldt, Mendocino, Trinity, Tehama and Butte counties for the next 15 to 20 years. Included in the Plan are decisions about BLM-managed lands that would be open, closed, and limited to existing routes for OHV travel, specifically the potential designation of the Chappie-Shasta and Samoa Special Recreation Management Areas, which would have an emphasis on managing for OHV recreation opportunities. However, this Plan does not include route-by-route travel management OHV trail designations.

The BLM will host in-person public meetings on October 30 at the Bear River Community Center in Lolita, CA, and on November 2 at the Sheraton Hotel at the Sundial Bridge in Redding, CA. There is also a virtual public meeting on December 13. Each meeting will include an informational presentation and an open-house format in which participants can meet with BLM specialists to discuss the topics of interest. Plan development is also an agenda item at the Northern California District Resource Advisory Committee meeting on October 26 in Susanville. The meeting is open to the public, and a virtual attendance option is available through Zoom.

For more information about the Plan, visit: <https://www.blm.gov/press-release/blm-welcomes-public-input-draft-management-plan-northwest-california-public-lands>

To review the draft Plan and provide comments, visit: <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2012803/510>

For more information about the public meetings, visit: <https://www.blm.gov/press-release/blm-sets-public-meetings-draft-management-plan-northwest-calif-public-lands>

For more information about the Resource Advisory Committee meeting, visit: <https://www.blm.gov/press-release/blm-resource-advisory-council-meet-oct-25-26-susanville>

Storm damage from Hurricane Hilary and the historic winter storms in California have resulted in some temporary road closures and challenging road conditions on those that remain open. Access to the Alabama Hills National Scenic Area, managed by the Bishop Field Office, is affected.

Cal Trans has opened State Highway 127 from the Nevada border to Dumont Dunes Road. Thanks to a collaborative effort between Cal Trans and BLM, repairs along Dumont Dunes Road, leading into the Dumont Dunes OHV Recreation Area have been completed, allowing BLM to keep the dunes open to the public. Due to significant damage along State Highway 127, between Dumont Dunes Road and the community of Baker, the main access to Little Dumont Dunes and other BLM lands along State Highway 127 will remain closed until further notice. We appreciate the public's patience and understanding as these repairs continue along State Highway 127. Visitors should check the websites below for the most current information.

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For more information about access to Alabama Hills, visit: <https://www.blm.gov/press-release/blm-bishop-field-office-advises-public-limited-access-alabama-hills>

For more information about Alabama Hills, visit: <https://www.blm.gov/visit/alabama-hills>

For more information about access to Dumont Dunes, visit: <https://www.blm.gov/barstow>

For more information about Dumont Dunes, visit: <https://www.blm.gov/visit/dumont-dunes-ohv-area>

Cal Trans Road Information Site: [Road Conditions \(ca.gov\)](#)

Access by permit is re-opened to visitors to the Clear Creek Road in the Serpentine Area of Critical Environmental Concern, within the Clear Creek Management Area, managed by the Central Coast Field Office. The road had been closed for repairs and maintenance, which are now completed.

For more information about the road opening, visit: <https://www.blm.gov/press-release/blm-restores-motorized-vehicle-access-clear-creek-management-area>

For more information about the Clear Creek Management Area, visit: <https://www.blm.gov/visit/clear-creek>

For permits to visit the Serpentine Area of Critical Environmental Concern, visit: <https://www.recreation.gov/vehiclepermits/250848>

Final awards for the 2023 Grants and Cooperative Agreements grants cycle were announced by the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division on September 7, 2023. The BLM was awarded \$6.6 million in grant funding, based on requests totaling \$7.3 million. The BLM would like to thank the Division and Commission for their continued financial support in the management of high-quality public OHV recreation opportunities on BLM-managed lands.

The Bureau of Land Management and Tread Lightly! California have been working together to promote responsible recreation to motorized recreationists as well as to highlight the 2023 California OHV Safety Weeks. All events planned under the current agreement have been completed.

Seasonal fire restrictions remain in effect across some BLM California Field Offices. These seasonal restrictions are in addition to the statewide, year-round fire restriction, issued in 2020 remains in effect through 2025.

For information on current fire restrictions, visit: <https://www.blm.gov/programs/public-safety-and-fire/fire-and-aviation/regional-info/california/fire-restrictions>

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